ACADEMY OF MUSIC.-This Evening at 8.-Italian BOOTH'S THEATER, Twenty-third-st., between Fifth FIFTH-AVE, THEATER, Twenty-fourth-st, and Fifth-

FRENCH THEATER, Fourteenth-st.-This Evening GRAND OPERA HOUSE, cor. Eighth-ave, and Twen-y-third-st.—This Evening at 8.—Knglish Opera. "Maritana," Care-

line Richings Bernard. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN, corner of Twenty-NEW-YORK CIRCUS,—This Evening at 8,—Grand regramme. Ah Ben Abdallah Trompe of Belouin Arabs. Equestriannes. Numer's Garden.—Tris Evening at 8.—" Little

OLYMPIC THEATER.—This Evening at 8.—"Poor SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.—This Evening.—Mis-

SOMERVILLE ART GALLERY, No. 82 Fifth-ave.— Title Bag and Evening—Exhibition of "The Nine Musea," STEINWAY HALL.—This Evening at 8.—Mme. Anna Bahop a record Grand Concert. THE TAMMANY .- This Evening at 8.- The Hanlons.

WALLACK'S THEATER.—This Evening at 8.— Wood's Museum, Broadway and Thirtieth-st.— Open maily from 2 a.m. to 19 p. m. Two dramster performances daily. At 2, "The Yankee Farmer." At 8, "Aladia."

## Businens Botices.

Physicians of both schools agree in opinion that HOFF'S MALT EXTRACT is highly serviceshie, not only as an article of diet for convalescent patients, or for those with enfeebled vital powers, nut also for discuses of the throat, chest, lungs, and stomach. At WM. EVERDELL'S SONS, 104 Fulton-st.

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For the accommodation of up-town residents Mr. E. H. Brown has opened an office at No. 54 West Thirty-second-st., junction of Broadway and Sixthave., where advertisements for THE TRIBUNE will be

## New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1869.

The Halian Cabinet favor the candidature of the Duke of Genoa. The Republican leader Orense has been un conditionally set free by the Madrid Government, which has in view the release of nearly all politieal prisoners, Bishop Martinez of Havana has been arrested at Cadiz, and Admiral Topete has been chosen Vice-President of the Cortes. === Mr. Peabody, yesterday the subject of eulogy by the Bishop of London, gave an additional £150,000 to the Peabody fund a few days before his death. - In Paris a great Rochefort demonstration has taken place without disturbance; but the garrison of the city is to be increased. Lopez has made a capture of Braziliaus at Curuguaty. ---- Havana correspondence gives the text of an appeal lately made to the blacks and coolies. The destruction of many sugar-cane fields, and the execution of four Chinamen for incendiarism, are reported

A terrible accident has occurred on the Western Pacific Railroad, near San Leandro, through the carelessness of a switch-tender; the killed being variously estimated ger train was run into by a freight train, near Des Meines, Iowa, and twenty persons injured. == The Republican wigwam at Chicago was burned on Saturday. - The Washington Territory Legislature is again without a quorum, and warrants have been issued for g members = Extensive fires have taken place at Cleveland, Gorham, Me., Norwich Falls, Conn., next Friday.

Some important testimony concerning the Drawback frauds has been taken. ...... More of the Brooklyn forgers have been arrested. - Gen. Tate, Haytien envoy, has arrived here. - The first stone of the new Post-Office building was laid on Saturday. - The robber of the National Park Bank, who recently escaped from the State Prison, has been recaptured. The corner-stone of a new Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City was laid yesterday. - Henning & Boulack, match manufacturers of Hudson City, are under arrest for using counterfeit stamps, ..... The Erle strike seems to be dying out, the engineers refusing A man in Mulberry-st. is suspected of having killed his wife. - A car-driver was seriously assaulted on Sunday in Chatham-square for refusing to stop for the procession of a Hibernian Benevolent Society. - Gold, 1263, 127, 1263. Temperature, Saturday, \$5, 44, 44, 40; Sunday, 39, 42, 41, 38.

The cold, misty atmosphere which made New-York streets so unpleasant, last night, is shown by the telegraph to have been merely the breath of the snow-storm that swept over New-England and the northern part of our own State. The prophets who regale us with their predictions of an unusually severe Winter certainly find no lack of encouragement, thus far, in the facts.

The Quarterly Review, in its article on the Byron Mystery, omitted only one thing which would have rendered the contradiction of Mrs. Stowe complete. That one thing is now supplied in a second edition of The Review, from which we learn that Lady Byron herself explicitly disclaimed the charge which Mrs. Stowe represents her to have made. The substance of The Quarterly's supplementary chapter (which is not given in the American reprint of that periodical) will be found on our sixth page.

The Louisville Convention have, with good foresight, provided for a delegation of six per sons, with ex-President Fillmore at their head, to attend the great Russian Exposition in 1870. It is of all things important that our cotton and grain, machines and manufactures, should be grandly represented in a growing empire, eager in many respects to be taught, hungry after new supplies, and especially ready to open wider commercial relations with the Republic to which its friendship has already been so specially attested.

The Brooklyn Equal Rights Association meets this evening at the Academy of Music, and will be addressed by Lucy Stone and Celia M. Burleigh. While we do not believe that Equal Rights for men and women involves identical functions and duties, we cherish high hopes of a beneficent issue of the present agitation in an enlargement of the sphere and a decided increase of the efficiency, usefulness, and independence of Woman: wherefore, let Brooklyn hear the ladies aforesaid attentively, and accept or reject their utterances as reason and justice shall dictate.

"Is it nothing," asked Bishop Thomson yesterday, at the anniversary of the Methodist missions, "that every large branch of Zion has "her missionary organization? that these "amount to eighty? that four thousand missults Methodism has reason for congratulation ship line connecting San Francisco and Hong political disturbance, yet the worst ob- the way of men, though it may help to equal- for swiftness.

are yearly collected to sustain the missions, and that 687,000 converts are enrolled in Africa, and 713,000 in Asia. Now, why not set these heathen an example of Christian unity at home?

The Canadians threaten that in default of reciprocity with the United States they will be compelled to abolish fishery licenses, to establish a duty on foreign coal, to the advantage of Nova Scotia and the injury of Pennsylvania, and to impose duties on pine timber and American breadstuffs. We suspect that Canada's neighbor would not suffer more than herself by these impositions; but it is high time for our legislators to discover how far Canada can be assimilated in trade to ourselves, and made to yield us not only good company, but an excellent market.

Sheffield is said to be sharp, and in April of 1867, when its manufacturers combined to adopt a special price-list for America, other to this result necessarily implies inquiry, than the market or wholesale price in England which our law requires, they may have calculated with great shrewdness and keenness. But the charge of fraud upon the revenue by undervaluations, a charge made by agents and officials of our Government in Europe, seems to have disturbed the calculations of all those who figure in their interest. In the searching investigation of "The Steel Difficulty," which is made on our second page, the charge is brought that the Euglish houses do not sell at home at the rates of the alleged undervaluations, as has been pretended, nor do they in fact sell steel to any sensible extent in England to this country. The position of the Sheffield manufacturers appears to be thus all and troublesome. uncovered.

A serious disturbance occurred yesterday in Chatham-square because a car driver declined to stop for a procession of some Hibernian Benevolent Society; the driver was brutally beaten, and for a time the proceeding almost amounted to a riot. Such occurrences are quite too common in this city, and all friends of fair play and good order should Democrats; and they know that whenuse their influence to prevent them. Of course there was abundance of room in Chatham-square for half a dozen processions, and any interference with the cars was due solely to the selfishness of the members of the procession. The car could not turn out; they could, but would not, preferring to detain passengers and throw a score of cars into confusion simply to show their independence. This tramping upon other's rights has existed quite long enough. If the leaders of processions do not pay a decent regard to public convenience, it will become the duty of the people to protect themselves.

The first testimony in the drawback frauds was taken on Saturday, and so far opens the case that the public can name the principal conspirators. These frauds have been going on for five or six years, and the parties in the work must have robbed the Treasury of a vast amount of money. Samuel T. Blatchford was the leading spirit, his assistants being R. B. Cauldwell and & Co., Custom-House brokers, Romeyn Mulligan, and Francis A. Howard, a clerk in the Revenue Bureau at Washington. The most important witness thus far is a clerk named Korn, who was familiar with all the transactions, and was an interested party to some extent. He was arrested last January, but, not seeing the justice of suffering alone while the leading offenders went free, he told the whole story to the District-Attorney. Several parties whose names are withheld are under arrest, and Judge Pierrepoint is determined to sift the matter thoroughly. The examination is adjourned until

That the switch-tender on the Western Pacific Railroad, whose astounding carelessness and misinformation yesterday led to the terrible accident in which thirteen passengers were killed and from thirty to fifty wounded, is directly responsible for this slaughter, and should be daly punished therefor, would seem, on the statement of facts which the telegraph furnishes us, a self-evident proposition. And yet we insist that there may be a wider responsibility and a graver criminality. If there are inventions which are capable of preventing, by means of self-acting and selfregistering switches or otherwise, this fruitful source of accident, the railroad companies which fail to introduce them, and thus expose their passengers to such perils as yesterday's bratal mangling illustrates, deserve to be themselves held to a rigorous account. We say nothing in favor of any special invention. We only insist that the Patent Office has given us reason to hope that means are within ready reach of every railroad for effectually preventing accidents from misplaced switches; and that it is the duty of railroads to test these inventions, and, if found valuable, to introduce them at whatever cost.

"A Chapter of the Brooklyn Frauds" in another column deserves the thoughtful attention of those who take an interest in the practical working of republican government in the great city over the river. We in New-York, who live under the shadow of Tammany Hall, are getting tolerably well used to being cheated, so that we take it as a matter of course, and in making an estimate of probable results, on entering upon a canvass here, only consider how many of the thirty or forty thousand fraudulent Democratic votes we can by extra vigilance keep out of the ballotbox. The opinion gains ground among the thinking and educated classes that our elections are becoming little better than a melancholy farce-a predestined swindle. Between New-York and Brooklyn there would seem to be a rivalry as to which shall excel the other in the various villainies which, under Democratic manipulations, are practiced at the polls and in the canvass of votes. As the matter now stands, New-York, with its dense population, its tenement-houses, and its innumerable dens of infamy, would seem to be ahead in the matter of repeating, while our sister city has carried the system of counting out duly elected candidates to the level of a

At the same time the two distinguished missionaries of commerce have come to this country from the East Indies, we learn that the steamship Great Eastern has left England with the new submarine cable which is to be laid between Aden and Bombay. We shall never be able to compete with England for Oriental commerce till we have telegraph lines stretching across the Pacific to Japan, China, and the Indies. That such lines can be laid, there is no doubt; for, on this point, we have ob- of the report give evidence of decided progress "sionaries are in the field? that the Word of tained the opinion of these most conversant during the year; and though we are told the "God is preached in 15,000 localities of the with the business of laying ocean cables. The "heathen world?" Assuredly, beside such re- success that has been achieved by the steam- dice, indifference, want of means, and

and thanksgiving. Add to them that \$19,000,000 Kong ought also to encourage American capitalists in the establishment of new commercial steamship lines on the Pacific. Within the next twenty years this country will doubtless have an immense commerce with the populous countries of Asia, and there is no way in which it can be so advantageously begun as by the laying of ocean cables and the construction of ocean steamships.

ELECTION-FRAUD PREVENTIVES.

The power to make, amend, and abolish, laws intended to shield the rights of legal voters from violation by "repeaters" and all manner of illegal voters, has passed completely into the hands of our Democratic politicians. Hitherto, they have simply stood off and found fault with the efforts of Republicans to achieve the desired end. Now they must act. We shall be most agreeably disappointed if they shall honestly and earnestly try to suppress illegal voting. For every act that tends suspicion, precaution, scrutiny; and these involve delay and loss of time to the voter. Take every ballot that is offered without hesitation or question, and you can receive one thousand votes at a poll without difficulty, and no one need be delayed fifteen minutes; but, if you undertake to confine the voting to legal voters, you must afford time for sifting pretensions and establishing rights either at the poll or previously. We believe no other device can be substituted for a Registration of Voters, with reasonable time for scrutiny between the close of the Registry and the opening of the polls, that will prove equally efficient without being far more inconvenient

But we have no plan to suggest, no experiment that we want to see tried. The responsibility is now with our political adversaries, and we shall rejoice to find them meeting it honestly and manfully. Frankly, however, we do not believe they will do anything of the sort. They know that the thieves, swindlers, and grog-shop loafers, who take to illegal voting as a duck takes to water, are naturally ever twenty-five thousand illegal votes are cast at an election, these cannot fail to add at least twenty thousand to the Democratic majority; and they are not inclined to forego the advantage thus proffered. Some of them will, while others will not, instigate and pay for illegal voting; but the mass of those who will not are apt to chuckle over the net result as heartily as the rest. So what we expect is that they will repeal the Registry law and enact in its stead something that will in practice amount exactly to nothing.

Mr. A. J. H. Duganne is more hopeful or more spooney. He thinks the Democrats only want to be shown how, and they will proceed at once to throw all requisite safeguards around the ballot-box. So he proceeds to instruct them

as follows: 1. He would double the number of election districts in our City, making them 700 instead of 334, so as to reduce the voters in each district

to about 200. 2. He would provide in each district "a suit-'able polling-place in the form of a booth, "shed, or other shelter, either portable or per-"manent, constructed purposely for the accommodation of 200 voters, and located as nearly "as might be in the center of the voting pop-"ulation of the district:" said polling-place to be an iron structure, located on a square or street-crossing, to resemble a palace or other passenger-car, and to be taken to pieces and carted off to some corporation yard or other depository after the counting of the votes shall have been completed.

3. He would have the vote taken in these polling-booths within two specified and advertised hours of each election day, as follows: tised hours of each election day, as 1010008:

"Let it be understood—First: That before a fixed hour (say 10a. m.) the voters of each district must have presented themselves at the door of their polling place and entered, giving their names and residences to a clerk at the door. Second: Let it be ordered that, at the minute of the clock striking 10 a. m. (if that hour be agreed upon), the entrance doors of all the pelling-places in all the election districts of the city shall be closed, and that they be kept closed during the balloting. Third: The doors being closed, the balloting to begin by calling the registered names of voters from the poll-list, in the manner that Yeus and Nays are taken in legislative bodies; each voter answering to his name, tendering his ballot, and, if un-Yeas and Nays are taken in legislative bodies; each voter answering to his name, tendering his ballot, and, if unchallenged, depositing it, and then leaving the polls by a door opposite to the closed entrance-door. The name and residence of every voter being thus called, in the presence of all the voters of the election district, he may be challenged, for cause, under suitable regulations provided by law; or, his vote being given, it is checked at once, as received, against his name upon the poll-list. Having voted and passed out of the exit-door, no voter can return until the balloting shall be completed, when the doors will be opened for public witness of the canvass of ballots."

-This plan would certainly bother "re-'peaters;" wherefore it will never be adopted by a legislature whereof Wm. M. Tweed is a master-spirit. Yet it has merits, and possibly may receive consideration at some future day. For the present, we are at the mercy of politicians who believe in voting early and voting often, and will legislate accordingly.

FREEDMEN'S SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH. In undertaking to give the colored population of the Southern States, liberated from Slavery by our arms, that rudimentary education which is essential to their exercise of the rights of citizenship, as well as to the successful prosecution of free industry, our Government assumed one of the most humane and beneficent duties that could possibly belong to it. The success of the undertaking has been remarkable. And this success is attested, not only by the hundreds of schools and the hundreds of thousands of pupils who are instructed in them, but by the influence they have exercised on the general welfare and elevation of the colored people. If we see the liberated slaves everywhere orderly and industrious-if we see them emancipating themselves from the degrading effects of their former bondage-if we see them successful in all the departments of productive labor-if we see them increasing in intelligence, acquiring the power of self-government, and obtaining a knowledge of the duties of republican citizenship-we must attribute these extremely valuable results, in great part, to the efforts which have been made to give them the advantages of the education which in other days they were denied.

We are sure no one can read the reports of the Bureau which controls the schools for Southern freedmen, without being satisfied that Government has been amply justified in doing what it has done in this direction, and being filled with admiration for the results of the work which is so patiently and skilfully carried on. The last semi-annual report of the General Superintendent (Mr. Alvord), which has lately been published under the authority of the War Department, furnishes such an abundance of facts which are arguments in themselves, such a variety of statements which are proof and demonstration beyond cavil, that we could wish it were read by all the voters of the country, as we hope it will be studied by every Member of Congress. The educational returns difficulties still continue, arising from preju-

excellence of the work, its general conduct below the tailor's as are the tailor's below the and intelligent direction, with the large and varied results, have been their own commendation. The Southern people generally are now in favor of schools for all. The freedmen themselves respond more heartily than ever to the efforts for their instruction; and productive industry is now furnishing them with means of paying for their tuition. The colored young men and women who have been prepared for the work of teaching enter upon it with alacrity and pursue it with success; and no less than 39 training schools have been established, which have now nearly 4,000 pupils. This not only secures a supply of teachers, but insures the prosecution of the great work of education under any circumstances that may hereafter arise. Benevolent associations are also rendering more active assistance than ever, and the Peabody fund has been the means of accomplishing great good, at very little added expense. The general retrenchment which was effected last year, and by which the Freedmen's Bureau was confined mainly to educational labors, was for a time embarrassing; but even this has only stimulated the managers of the colored school system to greater efforts, and the educational schedule which has been prepared for the ensuing year provides for enlarged operations in nearly every part of the South.

The report now before us contains tabulated exhibits and statistical returns of the condition and expenses of the colored schools in all the Southern States. As a whole, the statements must be extremely gratifying to every friend of humanity and human progress; and some of the facts are certainly calculated to surprise those who may have given credit to the gross misrepresentations about the Southern colored schools published in some of the Democratic newspapers. For example, after describing the different kinds of schools, the day and nightschools, the irregular schools, etc., it appears

that there is an aggregate of Total schools of all kinds ...... thove the actual number, as there are some unavoidable haplications in counting the different sorts of schools.

And the grand total of educational expenses paid by all parties during the half year covered by this report was \$1,078,385, of which more than half was the product of benevolent contributions and the payments of the freedmen themselves. Are not these results that may well be called grand and noble? And should not all Christians and philanthropists, without regard to political distinction, unite in sustaining this beneficent system of education for the poor colored people of the Southern

WOMEN'S PAY AND WOMEN'S WORK. THE TRIBUNE aims to do its full duty in demanding for women as well as men a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. We count it rather contemptible to send female clerks from Washington to New-York to straighten out the public accounts, and yet to pay them less than the men whose hard knots they unrayel. We view it as that celebrated boxingmaster, the Game Chicken, viewed the conduct of Mr. Toots in refusing to carry off Florence Dombey by main force. "It's mean, you "know. That's what it is! It's mean."

The trouble is that this is not the whole of the question of wages. Grant that all labor should be paid according to its merit. Grant that in the lighter kinds of labor, where no great strength or skill is required, women work as well as men, perhaps better, because of their greater conscientiousness and fidelity. Still the difficulty remains, that their sex thus limits them to a smaller range of employments. They cannot furnish the strength for rougher And for work requiring skill, the trouble is that women, as a class, do not learn it thoroughly enough to command the highest wages. The reason they do not learn it thoroughly is because the prime of their lives is, or ought to be, given to home duties. No doubt there are a myriad exceptions. But no woman expects to be an exception, and therefore women do not, as men do, train themselves for some life-work and become skilled laborers. Individuals doubtless do, but they find to their cost that the scale of wages is adapted to the habitual condition of the whole class. In Virginia Penny's invaluable "Cyclopædia of the Employments of Women in America" we find employer after employer pointing out this as the chief drawback on the compensation of women. "Nine out of ten get married as soon "as they are fairly initiated in work." "They are very apt to marry just as they become skill-'ful enough to be reliable." One china dealer in New-York "thinks it best to get homely girls, rather advanced in age, to attend store, because the young and handsome ones will get 'married." All agree; that women are lost to business pursuits by marriage, while men become more attentive to business when they have a family to support. Hence the supply of untrained women is always being renewed; as a class they are in the position of apprentices, and carn apprentices' wages. We see the same result in the one profession in which women predominate, that of teaching. No one doubts that women are by nature pe

culiarly fitted for training the young; and for this reason, and because their labor is cheaper, they are very extensively employed. But these teachers are usually very young girls, imperfeetly educated, or else they are widows, the prime of whose life has been otherwise spent. The School Committees all complain that their ablest teachers are soon transferred to homes of their own. Did anybody ever know a country clergyman whose wife had not taught school? The parsonage gains, but the schoolhouse loses, and the whole profession loses. It is the universal opinion of foreign observers that one great reason why our schools are inferior to those of Germany is from the far lower grade of culture among the teachers. who are inexperienced girls, instead of university-trained men. "The American preference of women as teachers," says Matthew Arnold, in his report on European education, "gets no sanction from the practice of the Continent. Competent foreign observers who have studied the American schools report that, as a general rule, though something is to be learned from them as to providing and maintaining schools, little or nothing is to be learned from them as to teaching." The reason is that, with women, teaching is a temporary pursuit, and that, nevertheless, the Ameri can school-room is becoming so monopolized

All this we say with infinite regret and with desire for light. Beyond the cruelty of employers, the unjust prejudices of society, and the brutality of Philadelphia medical students, there are obstacles in the very organization of woman to her learning the highest wages. The ballo; can only affect other obstacles, not these particular ones. The ballot does not equalize

by their cheaper labor that the ablest men are

generally tempted to other fields.

stacles have been surmounted. The intrinsic | ize it. The wages of the tailoress are not so far lawyer's. And yet lawyer and tailor both have the ballot, and in this city, at least, the tailor has the upper hand. But the difference of wages between the sex which works for wages continuously and inevitably, and that which works exceptionally and occasionally, is one which voting alone cannot mend.

But one thing, at least, women can effect. They can train their daughters to do thoroughly whatever their hands find to do. So strongly does this habit of superficiality attach to the work of women that even the leaders of emancipation hardly get beyond it. It is but a few days since we heard two persons prominent in the woman's suffrage movement admit with regret that there is not yet a woman in the country who is fitted to preside over a difficult convention. And this, not for want of dignity, nor of presence, nor of tact, but simply because not a woman has as yet taken the pains to master those simple rules of parliamentary law which are to be found in any small text-book on the subject. These rules are to a public meeting what military drill is to an army-the only means of keeping it from confusion. Jean Paul says that no female general would ever give the plain command, "Halt!" but she would say, "All 'you people, as soon as I have done speaking, 'I command you all to stand still in your 'places; halt, I tell you!" No person can have read the reports of the stormy meetings of the Equal Rights Association in this city, last Spring, without perceiving that nine-tenths of the trouble could have been prevented by a competent presiding officer. Yet Mrs. H. B. Stanton is a woman of unquestioned ability, and has been steadily attending conventions for twenty years. It is for the sake of women themselves that we wish to see this want of thoroughness corrected. "Young men exhort to be sober-'minded," saith the Scripture. "Young women 'exhort to be business-minded," say we.

## AUSPICIOUS OMENS.

One of the most interesting events of the times is the reunion now happily effected between the conflicting jurisdictions of one of the most influential Christian denominations in the United States. The ceremonies were impressive and their influence was far-reaching-far indeed beyond the "Assemblies" and the 'Schools" more immediately concerned-and affecting not merely a single sect, or section, or nationality, but the whole Christian world that has been so long scandalized by the discord on such a question among so large a number of American professors of religion. What intelligent persons could witness those ceremonies, what religious and patriotic minds can now hear of them, without feeling that the division and reunion of that important sect are portions of the awful tragedy that convulsed the nation with long years of warfare, deluged the land with blood, and sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives?

The schism in the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches was one of the gloomiest harbingers of national wo. The distinctions of South and North in those influential sects foreshadowed the political convulsion that threatened destruction to our National Union. As such wide-spread and powerful religious denominations actually split on the rock of Slavery, many of the truest patriots doubted for a while about the possibility of preserving the Ship of State amid the storm which thus wrecked the unity of Christian churches. And well might they doubt the continuance of political unity, when armed conflict between the South and North was accelerated as well as foreshadowed by sectarian disruptions flowing from the same accursed cause.

The baneful influence of sectarian divisions on that old, vexed question should now be counteracted by uncommon efforts for promoting religious, social, and political advancement, in the path of which these divisions were a stumbling-block. Above all, the example of reunion presented by the Presbyterian Church should not be lost on the other great sect whose divisions exerted a like baleful influence on the religious and political condition of the nation. The Methodists, 'North" and "South," owe it to their God and their country to bury their feuds in the grave of the now obsolete "institution" that occasioned them, and which their venerated patriarch denounced as "the sum of all villainies."

The system of architectural competitions in vogue never yet has produced, and never will produce, a thoroughly successful building. The ordinary run of vestrymen, bank directors, and life insurance officers called on to decide them generally know as much about the Chinese alphabet as they do of the principles of true architecture. Are we to reckon the Vestry of St. James's, Brooklyn, more competent in such a matter, because they have set some eight or nine of our leading professional men to work on plans for their new church, to cost \$250,000, at the remarkable remuneration of \$200 each for their preliminary studies? Some of our best buildings, as All Soul's Church (characterized by THE TRIBUNE two years ago as, "with all its faults, the first genuine piece of architecture in America,") the West Presbyterian and Holy Trinity Churches, and more recently the Temple Emanu-El, on Fifth-ave., and the new St. Thomas's, were placed immediately in the hands of their respective architects without any roundabout palaver on the part of the several committees. When we need a first-rate doctor or lawyer, we don't consult a dozen, to know how each would practice or prescribe. No, gentlemen of St. James's, if you really mean to do the fair and square thing this time, call in the aid of the two most accomplished architects artistically and constructionally outside the pale of pure competition, and let the decision be intrusted to their disinterested, calm professional deliberations. If you attempt it yourselves, A. will go it blind for "his man," and B. for "his "-even should C.'s protegé and plan have all the merit of Michael Angelo, Bramante, and Palladio rolled into one!

There seems to have been the usual amount of horse-tretting at the Agricultural Fairs this Fall. In most cases, the societies offer a small premium for the winning animal; and so far, if great speed is a quality to be encouraged. there would seem to be nothing inconsistent with the avowed object of these annual occasions. Everybody, however, knows that there is a great deal of betting, blacklegging and blackguardism connected with these "trials of speed." A considerable portion of the assembly regard them simply as horse-races, which afford an opportunity for making a little or a great deal of money. In too many cases, these races bring to the ground people who would care little for either pumpkins or potatoes; and we regret that there cannot be maintained the, same interest in horses for draught as in horses

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

The first Philharmonic rehearsal of the sea-

son took place on Friday afternoon, at the Academy of

Music. The attendance was not quite so large as usual,

and, the preparations for the Winter's flirtations being

apparently incomplete, the performances were listened

MUSIC. NEW-YORK PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

to with a tolerable degree of attention. Mr. Cari Bergmann is again the conductor of this fine body of musicians. On the whole, he is the best man for the position that we have among us, and there are sufficient reasons for believing that if proper opportunities were afforded him, he would speedily bring his orehestra to a degree of perfection approaching, if not fully equaling, that of the best in the principal European capitals. Under the present system upon which the affairs of the Philharmonic Society are conducted, such a result can hardly be expected. We are told that the practice of giving public rehearsals is essential to the financial stability of the Association. That fact granted-and we have no right to dispute it—it should also be understood that its necessity involves the surrender of the highest artistic purposes. Absolute completeness of detail, and thorough unity of execution. can never be attained under the embarrassing conditions. of crowded audiences at preliminary rehearsals. The conductor is too often restrained from compelling the necessary repetitions, and he loses the autocratic but salutary prerogative of properly anathematizing recalcitrant subordinates in time of need. In almost every way he is hampered and trammeled. Proofs of this were not wanting on Friday, although the programme was a comparatively simple one, and was composed of selections which must be known almost by heart to every musician. The Mozart Symphony in E flat, for example, presents hardly a single difficulty, yet we suspect that but for the presence of the congregation of "associate members" in the body of the house, there would have been much sharper work with the last movement. The music of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," too, was passed over before anything like the proper exactness and delicacy, even of a first rehearsal, were displayed. In the overture, especially, the gossamer daintiness of the rapid violin passages was sadly disturbed, and, although Mr. Bergmann here showed himself more of a disciplinarian than at any other time during the afternoon, his efforts were insufficient to secure the needed precision and lightness. The familiar overture to "Oberon," which could hardly go otherwise than smoothly, was the only performance in which no positive inaccuracies were perceptible; although, even in this, an oversight, of which we shall presently speak, destroyed the effect of the slow movement. It is not our purpose, of course, to review a performance of this sort with the critical close ness which a regular concert would warrant, but we cannot avoid speaking of those errors which the custom of allowing the public to assist at the prefatory "drilling" renders inevitable. We observe that three rehearsals only are allowed for each concert during the season. Of these-and they are certainly few enough-one at least should be strictly private. It is in the power of no conductor, however skillful, to "break in" so large a force as that under Mr. Bergmann's control when surrounded by a multitude whose demand is for a sustained and unbroken flow of sound, and which becomes impatient when anything in the way of solid work is undertaken.

The formation of the orchestra and the distribution of the various instruments appears to be generally good. The violas were weak on Friday; but that, we presume, was an accident of the day, and will be remedied hereafter. In the midst of some 38 or 40 violins (first and second). 13 or 14 basses, and as many cellos, a half-score of violas is certainly insufficient. We overlook a number of slight confusing circumstances which occurred, for the reason that they were of a kind which future rehearsals are almost sure to dispose of satisfactorily. One or two mistakes, however, should be looked to at once. In the andants of the "Oberon" overture, the violins should all be muted. In the "Midsummer Night's Dream" overture a trombone should be used, instead of the more modern instrument employed. These things are not trifles. There is no more exquisite effect in instrumentation than that produced by a large body of muted violins playing in unison. If half the bridges are left uncovered, the composer's intention is destroyed. With regard to the tromoone, it should be remembered that its raucous low tones are designed to suggest the coarser colors of the poem, and that the gentler instrument fails to convey the desired impression. If the braying leap of the ninth, which, with the violins, is thoroughly characteristic of Bottom's translated state, were given to the reeds, for example, the effect would not be more absolutely lost.

The programme on Friday rehearsed, which is undoubtedly also intended for the opening concert, is pleasantly enough chosen. Mozart's E flat symphony is a work of never-dying beauty, and the combination of "Oberon" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" affords the opportunity of immediately comparing the opposite spirit in which a kindred subject is treated by two eminent composers, Mrs. Charles Moulton, of whose performance at a recent amateur concert have had occasion to speak, has consented to sing an air from "Figaro's Marriage," Schubert's "Erl-King." Mrs. Moulton appeared on Friday afternoon, and was enthusiastically received. We take it for granted that she is now disposed to submit herself to the same estimate as that by which professional artists are judged-a test which we believe she is perfectly capable of meeting. Her voice on Friday showed admirable qualities of richness and purity. Her manner of singing was open to grave objection. Mozart's 'Vot che Sapete" should be left entirely free from such frivolous adornments as those with which she endeavored to enliven it. It is precisely one of the melodies with which no vocalist should presume to take a liberty. In the "Erl-King" she appeared to better advantage, her quick dramatic instinct and fine feeling greatly assisting its effect. All things considered, if the first step of the Philharmonic was not so firm and assured as we could have wished, it was undoubtedly in the right direction, apart from the slight deviations we have mentioned, and there is good reason to hope it will be followed by a straightforward march of improvement.

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

Last Saturday evening the first concert this season of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Society was given before an audience which filled the spacious Academy in every part. The programme presented but a single novelty-a performance of Liszt's piano-forte concerto with orchestral accompaniment, in E flat, by Miss Alide Topp. As the work will probably be repeated nearer home in the course of a few weeks, under somewhat more favoring circumstances, we defer speaking more particularly of its character than to say that it represents in as good a light as could be desired the author's theories and methods of composition, and exhibits a skill in uniting the two utterly antagonistic elements of the piano-forte and the orchestra which earlier writers have either been unable to command or unwilling to attempt. At the best, the combination is esthetically illegical, and can only be explained-it can hardly be justified-by the desire of pianists who are also composers on a large scale to magnify the dignity of their works by surrounding them with an amplitude of orchestral effect, and to personally participate in their public interpretation. In a musical strife of this sort, the weaker, which is the piano-forte, must almost inevitably go to the wall. Liszt has succeeded in preserving a better balance than his predecessors, which, however, is saying little. We may add that the concerto is excellently proportioned, and that the unity is maintained by avoiding the conventional practice of dividing into three or four distinct parts, with pauses between. Here the movement is continu ous, as, unless in very exceptional cases, it should be in all compositions of the sort. Miss Alide Topp lacks the physical strength necessary for a thoroughly adequate performance of so exhausting a work, but the absence of this quality was almost atoned for by the intelligence, the carnestness and the conscientious care she displayed. She had the sympathy of the audience from the beginning, and the applause which saluted her at the close was as heartily shared in by the critical few as by the demonstrative multitude. Miss Adelaide Phillips was the vocalist of the evening. She sang the air from Handel's Rinaldo," which, through her, has become a welcome addition to the repertory of our concert-rooms, with her accustomed purity and refinement of expression, and with the strict simplicity required in melodies of this class, but which is too often abandoned for the sake of ensual and trifling effects. Her second selection was the familiar rondo from "Cinderella," her success in which, some twenty years ago, while she was yet a member of the Boston Museum Company, first foreshadowed her artistic career, and for which she appears to have retained a special fondness ever since. The orchestra, numbering 60 musicians, played the third symphony of Beethoven-popularly called the Heroic, although there is quite as much mirth as majesty about it-Bennett's "Wood Nymphs," and Weber's "Jubilee" overtures with the accuracy of which Mr. Carl Bergmann's leadership always gives us satisfactory assurance. Of course their effect was not what it would have been in a properly constructed hall. Resonance and clearness are impossible with a background, side walls, and hanging draperies of flabby canvas. No theater is fit-no theater can be made fit for the perfect interpretation of orchestral works of the highest order. The New-York Philharmon-